

Vol. 84, No. 62 Friday, June 21, 1985

# THE CREEK/ASY

Back from the USSR. See page 2

# Student President/Regent may face removal

By PATRICK C. STEPHENSON

If Student Senator John Spethman has his way, Student President/Regent Mike DeBolt will be looking for a new job before the summer is over

Spethman submitted a resolution to the June 13 meeting of the Student Senate, asking for DeBolt's removal from office on grounds that the president/regent "has failed to uphold the position he was elected to." The resolution goes on to state that "it is evident through record and performance that the office of Student President/Regent has not been carried out!

#### "He blew it, basically. I'm sorry, but that's the way I feel." —John Spethman.

Addressing the senate, Spethman said, "There-was some question when he took office (as to) how he would handle the position. I think the record speaks for itself." According to Spethman, DeBolt has missed "a number of important meetings" and repeatedly failed to make reports to the senate.

"He blew it, basically," said Spethman. "I'm sorry, but that's the way I feel.

Sen. Jim Carter expressed concern that the UNO student body might not be receiving adequate representation during "a very delicate time for our campus." The senator repeated Spethman's allegation that DeBolt has failed to attend senate meetings and inform the student representatives of the regents activities.

"We need someone in the president/regent position who will put their all into representing our total concerns as UNO students. I strongly urge you all to consider some actions to look into his (DeBolt's) performance," Carter told the senate.

When Spethman was asked for specific dates of Board of Regents meetings that DeBolt allegedly failed to attend, the senator could not remember exact dates. There was also considerable concern over DeBolt's failure to attend spring graduation. According to Speaker Pete Adler, DeBolt was married on the same day as graduation; however, some senators expressed the concern that he should have scheduled around graduation. Once again, however, specifics were lacking.

At the request of Sen. Mike Drelicharz, the senate voted 8-7-to postpone the resolution to remove DeBolt until the July 11 meeting of the senate. An investigation committee, consisting of Sens. Carter, Allison Brown, and Greg-Gunderson, was appointed to look into allegations made against DeBolt. The committee is scheduled to meet with the student president/regent today. The committee will then report to senate Speaker Pete Adler on Monday, Interviews with faculty and administrative members are ongoing

If the senate votes to impeach DeBolt at the July 11 meeting, the case will be brought before the five-member Student Court. Should the court decide the uphold the impeachment charge, the senate speaker would then assume the responsibilities of the student president/regent until a new election could be held to fill the position.

DeBolt was not present at the June 13 senate meeting, and, according to Adler, he filed no report concerning the June 8 meeting of the Board of Regents. As of Tuesday, repeated attempts to contact DeBolt have proved unsuccessful.

The only successful removal of a UNO student president occurred in 1976, when Student President Steve Showers was impeached in connection with an unauthorized entry into files of the Secondary Education Department. The most recent attempt to remove a student president/regent from office occurred in 1982, when Student President/Regent Florene Langford was accused of various abuses of her position. The senate cleared

Langford of all charges and subsequently granted her a vote of confidence

In other action at the June 13 meeting, the senate approved allocation of \$5,000 from the 1984-85 fiscal year contingency budget towards a \$50,000 goal for initial costs of establishing an on-campus child-care center. In addition, the resolution called for \$5,000 to be allocated from the 1985-86 fiscal year contingency. These combined allocations complete the Student Government's goal of \$50,000. The senate had originally established a five-year schedule to fund the project. Under this schedule, the senate would not have completed its commitment until 1987.

The senate was also addressed by Chancellor Del Weber; who spoke on the academic and physical future of UNO. Weber told the senate that it is of vital importance that the university attract a larger percentage share of top students from the Omaha area. "When you start to get a critical mass of those kinds of students," I think it does something to the intellectual environment of the university," he said.

The chancellor also stressed the need to place additional emphasis on the colleges of business and fine arts. "They are the two agencies which do more in the way of interaction with the community and giving visibility to this university than any other." he told the senate

Weber also discussed the legislature's recent cuts in funding to the NU athletic programs. 'I happen to believe that athletics are absolutely necessary on campus," he said, "We've got to convince the legislature that there is, in fact, educational value? to athletics, and that they have a responsibility to put some money into it.

Despite UNO's dismal budget outlook, Weber displayed optimism for the future of the university. According to Weber, UNO has been experiencing a "dramatic" surge of public support: "This community is not going to let this university be cannibalized," he said.

# Faculty, student senators oppose tuition reallocation

By PATRICK C. STEPHENSON

In response to recent decisions passed down by the Board of Regents, both the UNO Faculty. Senate and Student Senate have approved resolutions that strongly oppose the reallocation of tuition revenue from UNO to other campuses of the NU system.

The resolutions come in response to the regents approval of a 5 percent tuition surcharge for all NU undergraduate and graduate students during the 1985-86 school year. The resolution would send extra revenue raised from the tuition surcharge to the NU central administration for possible reallocation to other campuses. The surcharge will draw an estimated \$463,000 from UNO, \$1,993,000 from UNL and \$280,000 from the Medical Center.

The Faculty Senate resolution, which was introduced as an emergency item by Sen B. J. Reed, "urges both the President of the University of Nebraska and the Board of Regents to oppose" any reallocation of tuition revenue generated by students at UNO to other cam-

The resolution says UNO will receive 0.6 percent less in state assistance in fiscal year 1985-86 while the Medical Center will receive a 1.28 percent increase and UNL will receive an increase of 0.3 percent. The senate ap., of the resolution to the dovious need of such proved the proposal 17-2:

Sen Michael O'Hara moved to amend the resolution to oppose the transfer of funds raised/v than limiting it to the transfer of funds from

UNO to other campuses. The senator called the resolution a "dead proposal" without the amendment. The motion failed for lack of a sec

O'Hara defended his amendment, saying, " think it's hazardous to discuss an issue that says You can give me money from somebody else's pocket, but you can't take it from mine.

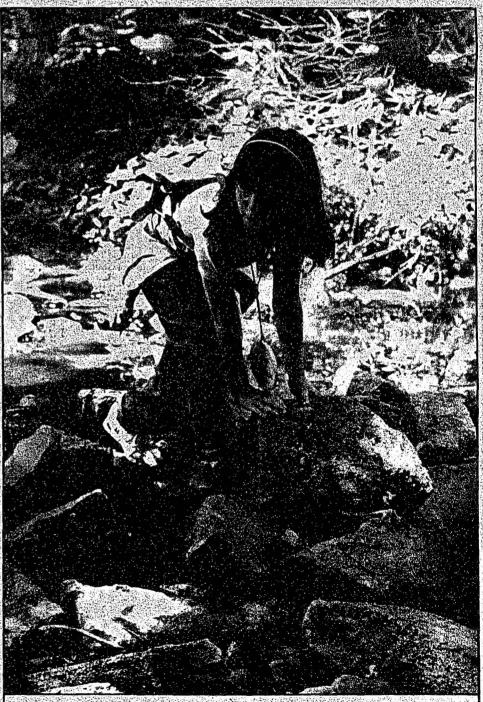
The senator further voiced the concern that UNL and the Medical Center could view the proposal as UNO "grabbing at their funds."

Sen. Harvey Leavitt urged the senate to support the resolution as written, saying, "I think we must represent ourselves and our interests here. All the campuses are fighting for their self-interests and this is an appropriate document to protect our self-interests, and certainly, the interests of the students whose money it is that will be transferred.

The Student Senate resolution, which was introduced by Speaker Pete Adler, said "asmuch as the (UNO) students are paying extra; they should directly receive benefits from extra funding.

The senate voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. Adler attributed the easy passage a document to represent the views of UNO students.

"We feel that the money belongs here," he on one campus to any other campus,", rather—said, "After all, we're paying the extra for it, why not reap the benefits?



Patrick C. Stephenson

## Roughing it

Outdoor World participant Ginny Franzese navigates a creek in the backwoods of Elmwood Park: Outdoor World is a class offered through the UNO Summer Program for Gifted Youth (see page 3 for story).

# Council delays park vote

sideration to override Mayor Boyle's veto of a proposal that would give UNO joint use of a 3.7 acre area of parkland that juts into the south border of the university's campus.

... The proposal, which was introduced by former councilman David Stahmer, would allow UNO to make improvements on the parkland with the council's consent. Although the university does not currently have funds for such projects, Chancellor Del Weber has repeatedly amphitheater built on the land.

Addressing the June 13 meeting of the Student Senate, Weber called the parkland crucial to the long-range plans of the university. Weber said the 3.7 acres would "round out" the university and "virtually solve recreational problems on campus.

The Council will discuss a possible override of the mayor's veto on July 23.

# Philosophy chairman found Soviets 'basically friendly'

Soviet Union, he brought back a bit of information that some Americans might find somewhat surprising — Russians are peo-

Palmer, chairman of UNO's department of philosophy; and religion, spent three weeks touring the Soviet Union. While visiting the country, he had the opportunity to speak with some members of the Communist Party as well as some non-communists. According to Palmer, Soviets sunbathe, drink-Pepsi, "make eyes at each other" and do the same things Americans do in their free time.

"I didn't see people walking around looking glum and oppressed. Some people seemed to be enjoying themselves, enjoying life, other people looked as if they were bored . ... My basic impression was that people are people," he said.

Palmer described the Soviets he met as "basically friendly." A common theme consistently filled his conversations with the Russians.

Again and again, they seem to feel the need to say something in terms of wishing peace and friendship to our people," he said. According to Palmer, a common fear among the Soviets is

one that has long concerned the American public — the fear of a nuclear war. He said the Soviets are nervous about President. Reagan, the arms build-up and the proposed "Star Wars" de-

Just like the people in this country are afraid-of the Russians, they are afraid of us — afraid that we want to take over the

The tour, sponsored by the Presbytery of the Missouri River When Russell Palmer returned from a recent tour of the Valley, took the UNO professor to such major Soviet cities as Kiev, Leningrad and Moscow. Palmer said his impression of these cities is not accurately reflected in the common stereotype held by most Americans.

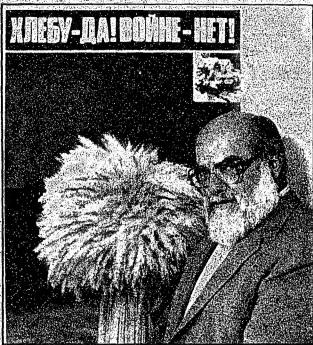
According to Palmer, Western television and films have overemphasized the economic problems of the Soviet Union. He said the belief that Soviet citizens must wait in long lines in order to make a simple food purchase is unfounded. While visiting major Soviet cities, the UNO professor saw very few lines, and those he saw were usually to purchase items in short supply, such as fresh oranges.

"Maybe the desires of the wealthier people are not satisfied, but nobody starves," he said, "When you go to a socialist kind of system, it's sort of a trade-off ... Maybe everybody doesn't get caviar, but everybody gets basic foods such as cabbage, potatoes and dark bread.

While visiting the country, Palmer usually traveled with his tour group. However, he said, any restrictions that may have been placed upon his freedom were minimal. "Obviously they don't have the same kind of openness in their society that we have in ours. On the other hand, a lot of people in our country. don't take advantage of that openness," he said.

Although Palmer described the Soviet press as being "selective," he said its point of view was generally no more slanted to the left than some of the American press is to the right.

There is a slight tone of nastiness every now and then, but no more than the people who write for the World-Herald," he said, "We do that, so why shouldn't they?"



no!" UNO professor Russell Palmer Bread - ves! Bombs . picked up this Soviet memento during a stay in Leningrad,

# Workshop attempts to battle 'économic ignorance

The fifth annual UNO Economic Education Workshop will be held at the Peter Kiewit Conference Center June 24-July 12

The workshop is a three-week course that prepares junior and senior high school social science teachers to incorporate economic material into their lesson plans.

The program is sponsored by UNO's Center for Economic Education and the Nebraska Council on Economic Education. Its goal is to increase students' economic literacy and improve economic education in Omaha schools. The program will introduce basic economic concepts and new curriculum to about 25 teachers from the area.

The teachers will meet each morning for three hours to attend classes, hear speakers from the community and acquaint themselves with software programs. They will also take field trips to Northwestern Bell, First National Bank and the Western Heritage Museum, said

Jim Dick, associate professor of education at UNO and curriculum administrator for the workshop.

"In Omaha, the interest is much greater than we can accommodate," said William Hosek, the workshop's instructor and professor of economics in UNO's College of Business Administration. Hosek said although funding is available for larger classes, the workshop's enrollment is limited to 25 because a larger number would be unmanagable and less productive. Of the 25, usually fewer than three teachers have taken any economics before, he said.

The typical elementary school teacher hasn't the foggiest idea, how the economy operates;" Hosek said.

The economic ignorance among school teachers is no more than that among the rest of the general public," he said, but added when teachers have limited contact with economics as elementary and secondary school students, they tend to avoid economics in college and,

The workshop's goal, he said, is "to break out of that cycle and provide sufficient opportunities for teachers to incorporate economics into their lesson plans and to familiarize students" with the jargon and theories of inflation unemployment, and international trade, as well as supply and demand.

Social studies teachers should have some background in economics because it is difficult to discuss political issues and history without some awareness of economic issues," Hosek

He said because economics is "the analysis of everyday choices," most lessons include eco-nomic issues under the surface of geography or

Now I bring out more of the economic aspects of American history," said Jack Blanke, advanced placement American history teacher at Omaha Central High School, who enrolled in the workshop two summers ago.

Blanke said he taught American history for 25 years without thoroughly discussing economic issues in class.

Blanke said all the different economic variables and the lack of concensus among economists "make people back off ... it's not cutand dried."

But, Hosek said, if students "sample economic material at an early age then that phobia should go away."

Hosek said the workshop is like freshman economics 201 and 202 "thinned down quite a. bit. We're compressing it, packaging it into a three-week course. It's a sampling of some ideas to infuse into curricula and whet the teachers' appetites to pursue economics in more detail.

As soon as the teachers are comfortable with the economic jargon, they can "read on their own and take their own direction," he said.

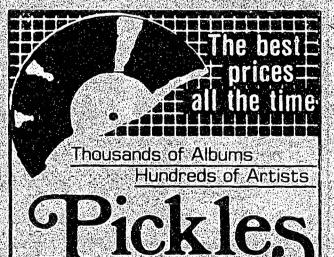
"Teachers become much more positive about" economics," Dick said.

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REVIEW

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# UNO program expands gifted children's horizons

By SUSAN KUHLMANN
"I hate these gnats."

"I wish it'd rain, I'm getting thirsty." "I'm so old, I think I'm gonna die soon

I'd like to be a teacher's desk (when I do). That is just a sample of a conversation overheard recently as a group of first- and second-graders imagined they were trees in Elmwood

The children, members of the outdoor world class, are participants in the UNO Summer Program for Gifted Youth. They have been studying in the park every day, observing and analyzing nature.

Their study of trees includes illustrating "what a tree means to me," measuring its circumference with a piece of string, discussing the uses of a tree while it is alive and after it dies, determining its age by counting its rings, and speculating on things such as how long it takes a tree to grow and how many pencils it can produce.

Another day's activity includes a hike with the class team leader, Ann Danner, to a pond in the recesses of the park. There, the group is apt to observe wildlife such as muskrats, fish and dragonflies. Danner, who was recently named Nebraska Conservation Teacher of the Year, also helps the children find and identify the kind of plant life growing in, as she says, the "oozy, goozy mud."

By the time the children return to their classroom in Allwine Hall, they have gained an understanding of the ecosystem that exists in the pond community.

Additional projects planned in the coming weeks include observation of a python and a talk by beekeeper Keith Hudson, a UNO staff

In the HPER building, the youngest strand (as the classes are called) composed of preschool and kindergarten children explores fitness and coordination in a movement class. The youngsters play simple exercise games and then work out on the gym equipment or in the dance

Team leader Lani Graham said the focus of the class is on moving and creating. The activities, according to Graham, include both structured and creative movements. All the activities, are non-competitive.

Helen Howell, one of the program's coordinators, said it is important for the children to develop motor skills because gifted students often ignore physical activity. She said the class also helps the students develop social skills and

This summer marks the seventh year for the gifted program, sponsored by the College of Continuing Studies and the College of Educa-

Its co-directors, Howell and Jean Bressler of the teacher education department, characterize it as a hands-on learning experience that involves little classroom lecturing. The only pressure in the classes, they said, comes from challenging questions.

The program is available to children who



Preschoolers and kindergarteners explore ways to keep fit in a movement class at UNO. Pictured from left to right are: Nicole Bettini, Anne Batchelder and Matthew Mancuso.

have been identified as gifted or recommended for the courses by their teacher or principal. In addition to the local and state-wide area, applications for the program come from students as far away as Texas, California and North and South Carolina, said Howell.

The enrollment is about 400 this year, down from over 500 two years ago, Howell said. She said the cause for the drop may be because similar programs were recently started at Creighton, the College of St. Mary, and Metro Community College.

The instructors, who, according to Howell, receive minimal pay, come from the UNO fac-ulty and area school districts. Members of the teaching teams also include graduate and undergraduate UNO students (some of whom receive credit for the experience) as well as some high school students.

Howell called the program a good experience for teachers because it gives them ideas for methods they can use in their own classroom. The student-teacher ratio is 10-to-1, Howell

Nine classes are currently being offered in the program. In Spanish Explorations, the students are addressed by the Spanish translation of their names and have been learning numbers and the parts of the body. They are also studying the Spanish culture and the tale of Don

Kendalene Crenshaw, whose son Brandon at

tends the class, said, "He has been trying to teach us to count (in Spanish) at home, and that he corrects his parents mispronunciation of English words with Spanish origins...

The gifted program also includes classes to tap the imaginations of older students, up to grade nine. In Myth-Takes, they explore heroes, gods, monsters and other creatures from ancient Egyptian, Indian, Eskimo, Creek, Nordic and King Arthurian myths and legends.

Liz Stinson, 11, said she chose the class because she is interested in myths, and "wanted to learn more about them.

Comparing the gifted classes at UNO to her regular school, she said, "It's like a break because it's so much fun.'

Another myth explorer, Tim Wade, 10, who has previously attended classes in the program, said a mythology book aroused his interest in the subject. He said he prefers the UNO classes to regular school because they offer more interesting subjects: "Here I can choose what I like to do," Wade said∠

The program also offers classes such as physics for scientifically-minded students. Here they can explore a variety of topics-including force motion and electricity

The course culminates with a display of student projects. According to Howell, past projects have included simulating a hurricane and treating parents to cookies baked in solar

Additional strands offered include Debate/ Search, Math/Science, Chemistry and Advanced Computers. Howell said in past years the computer class was the first to be filled due to a lack of computer facilities in regular schools. Now the class includes a prerequisite of one year in the Math/Science strand or one year of working with computers in school.

The program also exposes students to the facilities of a university library. Howell stressed the importance, especially for gifted students, of developing good reference skills

Bressler said, "They love using the microfilm," which, she added, intimidates some college students.

Both women said the kids like being able to tell their friends they are attending classes on. a college campus. Howell said the setting offers facilities and expertise not available to the students in their regular classrooms:

Howell said the program is self-supporting, costing the university and taxpayers nothing. The College of Education covers the costs of materials, advertising and parking stickers for the teachers

Cost for students is \$60 for the younger ones; \$90 for third- to ninth-graders. Howell said some scholarships are available through various community groups, as well as adopt-aschool programs and some area high schools. The four-week classes will end June 28.

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# Comment

# Tear them down

By the time you read this, Lot W, on the west side of campus, is scheduled to be closed for construction. During the break between spring and summer classes, several old homes have been torn down to make way for the long-awaited circulation road, lab science building, and, yes, more parking.

If the university was really sincere about encouraging progress, the administration would not have stopped razing buildings with a few houses on the west side of campus. In the name of progress and campus beautification, some buildings on the east side of campus should fall to the wrecker's ball as well.

Those ugly tin cans next to Arts and Sciences Hall, for example. Those little green huts were intended to be temporary buildings back when UNO was still Omaha University. Rid the campus of these uncomfortable eyesores and make a little money at the same time by feeding them to the "Golden Goat" can recycling machines in supermarket parking lots.

You can probably think of other likely candidates for destruction. One building, however, is more deserving of buildozing than

all the others — Kayser Hall.

"Taking a class in Kayser Hall is like having a class in a tomb," a fellow student once said. Airless, windowless (except for a few windows in the halls), dimly lit, Kayser Hall brings out suicidal tendencies in students faster than a Lou Reed or Leonard Cohen album. Why, you could park 10 or 20 cars in that space.

It's not too late to consider reducing Kayser Hall to rubble. After all UNO has done for saying architecture, could it do less for the east side of campus than it did for the Farber house?

-KAREN NELSON

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# The Porch Swing by Kevin Cole

## Shady doings at Turtle Downs

A female reader, we'll call her Virginia, was disgusted with my first column of the summer (I'm batting 1,000 so far) and asks. "Isn't there some good, clean fun to be had during this season rather than the unsavory lifestyle you outlined in last week's column?

• Sure, there is more to summer than drinking beer, speculating on the sex lives of famous people and ogling young women in string bikinis at the beach and across the backyard fence. It doesn't get any better than those three options, but there are plenty of other choices to help you make it through these long lazy days.

I know, because back in those dark days of childhood before I drank beer, discussed prominent sex scandals and paid lurid attention to the bare-skinned female figures (before my 13th birthday), I was involved in an endless array of summer adventures:

Yes, in those days the idyllic hours on Omaha's North 45th Avenue — a two-block area bounded by Maple to the north and Fontenelle Boulevard to the south — were filled with backyard carnivals, theatrical performances, spook-houses bike rodeos and all the recognized sports.

At that time Holy Name parish, this good Catholic neighborhood, boasted the most children in all of Omaha Indeed, while I came from a family of six children, we were one of the smallest families in the area. Maybe you're already, getting the picture; the possibilities for fun, mischief, excitement and money making were virtually as unlimited as our fertile imaginations.

Here at UNO you have undoubtedly heard of the late lamented "Thirsty Thursday" turtle races in Elmwood Park. Well,

on the Ave., we did things just a little bit differently.

Instead of some quiet, harmless fun consisting of watching a few turtles coze their way across the pavement, we took akin to the pari-mutuel approach of Ak-Sar-Ben. That's right folks, at the tender ages of 10 and 11 we were organizing illicit, unlicensed betting and involving tots even younger than ourselves:

It came to myself and a co-conspirator in a blinding flash one night while watching Dave Blackwell recount the day's winners at Ak. 'Hey let's form our own race track.' And in that inspirational moment, "Turtle Downs'! was born.

We figured that we could buy seven or eight tiny painted turtles for a dime apiece at a local discount store (like the hermit crabs and pet rocks to come) turtles were the rage that summer) and paint a race track on a plywood sheet, where we could run races, publish odds and sit back and clean up.

Well, the first day went just fine. We had a three-cent minimum and 25 cent maximum bet, ran 10 races for a gate of about 30 kids and we collected a tidy sum at the close of the day's racing, which we quickly spent on pop and candy at Kirk's drug store. Day two presented problems — through the first three races we lost our shirts. Only by a quick loan from a kindly brother were we able to keep Turtle Downs solvent and our hides away from the clutches of an ugly mob bent on collecting.

The problem was that the turtles showed a remarkable penchant for predictability. Numbered 1-10, the same three or four turtles consistently placed in the money and this seething gang of money-gouging tikes had figured the play. Desperate for return to the leisurely life of confection, gobbling and comic book loitering, my partner and I conceived a plan to keep our little money-maker affoat.

Instead of keeping the same numerals on each turtle for each race, we conspired to change the numbers around depending on the wagering before each race. After all, the turtles were practically indistinguishable from one another and we didn't intend to allow anyone a close inspection.

Illegal and immoral as this was, we convinced ourselves that unless some drastic action was taken, this pleasant diversion we had invented for "the good of the entire neighborhood" would be forever spoiled because a few stupid turtles wouldn't give 100 percent.

Well, it wasn't very much longer that my partner and Turtle Downs had to enlist another helper due to a prior commitment on my part (I think I had to go to the dentist because my teeth had begun aching from all the pop and candy we had been consuming daily). Let in on our little secret, the helper wasted no time in spilling his guts to a few suspicious high rollers.

Though we vigorously defended our position and pointed out a full 50 percent of the mutuel handle (\$10 a day) was being returned to the public, the image and good name of Turtle Downs was forever tarnished and another money-making venture bit the dust.

Yes, Virginia, there are other ways to spend these lazy days of summer. But remember, even the games of babes are not always as innocent as they might seem. So why don't I grab a cold one, and you put on a bikini for me to ogle. I'm getting bored and turtles are no longer a dime apiece.

# PARKING LOT PARKI

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# 'Comforting myth' of family farm not backed by fact

Here are some interesting statistics on the "farm crisis" in the United States from an article by Gregg Easterbrook in the July issue of Atlantic magazine.

-Most farmers don't have burdensome debts. A U.S. Department of Agriculture study indicates that only 6.5 percent of all farmers are actually insolvent or on the verge of being so. The Federal Reserve System estimates that 19 percent of all farmers have debt-asset ratios higher than 41 percent.

Again according to the Federal Reserve, 58 percent of all farmers are in the clear with debt-asset ratios of 10 percent or less. The 19 percent of farmers in credit trouble compares with last year's estimate that 19 percent of U.S. industrial capacity. was idle. In this respect, farmers are doing as well as anyone.

From 1974 to 1984, outstanding agricultural debts rose 193 percent. Through the same period, consumer credit rose 172 percent, mortgage debt 167 percent and all commercial bank debts 153 percent.

—Farmers are not being driven from the land. The Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) provides loans to farmers who can't get credit elsewhere. From October 1984 through January 1985, the FmHA actually foreclosed on only 42 farms nationwide. Over the same period — which was reported by the media as a period of dire emergency for farmers - FmHA borrowers who "discontinued farming due to financial difficulties" totaled 1,249, or 0.5 percent of the FmHA's clients.

The number of farmers in trouble with the Farm Credit Association, which handles about a third of the U.S. agricultural debt; amounted to 1.6 percent of the FCA's total clientele.

-Agribusiness does not dominate farming. Corporations own only 3 percent of all U.S. farms. One percent of all farmowners do hold 30 percent of all farm acreage, but this is the same ratio

-There is no "exodus from the farms." The number of U.S. farms declined by 33,000 in 1982 and by 31,000 in 1983. But declines were far bigger in the '50s and '60s — a period some cite as "the good old days" for farmers. In 1951 the number of farms declined by 220,000; in 1956 by 140,000; in 1961 by

There is a comforting myth, propogated mainly by urban dwellers, that farms are a sort of inviolable shrine to the American work ethic. The public imagination portrays farmers as simple, stoic folk toiling from dawn to dusk to wrench from the earth its fruit. The thought of even one of these bastions of honest labor being forced to give up their time-honored profession is almost blasphemous:

This myth, like many others, flies in the face of facts. The agriculture industry constitutes the largest sector of the American economy, employing more people than the steel and auto industries combined and accounting for 20 percent of the Gross National Product. As an industry, it is subject to the same law

What trouble there is in farming can be directly attributed to over-production. When other industries produce more than can be consumed domestically or sold on foreign markets, they either cease production or produce something else. When American farmers produce more food than Americans can eat or foreign governments can afford to buy, what happens?

Small, uneconomical farms are given just enough Federal support to limp along, while larger and more efficient operations lose money due to depressed markets resulting from surpluses. Or they are paid not to produce. In some cases, farmers have even tilled useless land, increasing the amount of their acreage not in use to increase their subsidies.

It is ironic that U.S. agriculture is suffering from doing its job too well. But the rewards for a job too-well done in this case are tons of grain spoiling in storage and prices for farm commodities that are artificially supported by the government, allowing all to stay on their feet and none to advance.

The days of romance in farming are over. There is no romance in, gluttony... There is no romance in preserving uselessness. There will always be a need for food production, but in a supposedly free-market society, the machinery that provides for the survival of those who meet the demand efficiently and the demise of those who don't must be allowed to operate

DAN PRESCHER

# Sobering thoughts on the Alabama moment of silence

'At the commencement of the first class of each day," read the Alabama statute, "in all grades and in all public schools, the teacher in charge of the room in which such class is held may announce that a period of silence, not to exceed one minute in duration, shall be observed for meditation or voluntary prayer, and during any such period no other activity shall be engaged in."

Two weeks ago, the Supreme Court decided by a 6-3 vote that the statute was unconstitutional, so long las" the phrase !"voluntary. prayer" remained within the text. It is possible that Alabama-had no need for the naughty phrase, inasmuch as the word meditation carries a spiritual suggestion within its definitive baggage. One could have all but predicted that someone would throw his hands up in despair, and that the Supreme Court would rule appropriately.

But the Court has done two other things as z well. It has added to a volume of opinion and raving which has done a splendid job of purging clarity in favor of chaos, so far as church-State thinking is concerned. And; it has furnished supplementary ammunition to the soldiers on both sides of the matter, even as their irons are already well furnished with dum-dum bullets of fustian. One side will batter Congress until it

passes a constitutional amendment which would be a flabby appendix of bad law. The other side will marshal its prattlers and gumflappers for defensive strikes against the Coming Reign of Terror, should the aspiring tyrants of theocracy seize reason and demand a fat ransom.

One notes, however, that the Alabama law placed the option into the teacher's hand alone. If the teacher chose to have a moment of silence, such was the teacher's prerogative. If the teacher chose not to do so; the law stood in the teacher's favor. No school principal; school district, board of education, or agency. of Alabama or its localities, had any business to interfere. A student could offer silent devotion to his God as the student was disposed or taught to offer; he could also have indulged new means of seducing his favorite girl in the third row, and no one could have known for certain which of the two options he chose.

These matters point to a conflict between !. two salutary impulses. On the one hand is a transcending ritual of redemption (religion); on the other, a transcending civil order (government, American style). The Founding Fathers, following arduous debate, provided for a reconciliation between the two, but we have since had an uneasy time of avoiding an irrevocable divide. It is wise to remember that ritual can be exploded to defeat the end of religion, even

as civil order can be exploded to defeat the end of government. Martin Buber wrote of the reciprocal need, dialogic and otherwise, between God and man; Aristotle wrote that the good of man is the end of politics.

The ritual of religion is not a monolith; the individual denominations within Judaism and Christianity do not agree upon ritual. But government is concerned, to its own particular extent, with virtue and order, yet it is hardly, competent to prescribe ritual commensurate with divine precepts, without setting the ground upon which nasty battles might, be

When in 1962 the case which became Engel vs. Vitale first went to trial, Judge Bernard S. Meyer, hearing the case in New York state trial court, noted the point: "The saying of (the New York State Board of Regents') prayer, and the manner and setting in which it is said, are contrary to the religion and religious practices of those petitioners and their children who are believers; and, to the beliefs concerning such matters held by the petitioner and his children who are non-believers." Regardless, Judge Meyer found the Regents Prayer, which happened not to be compulsory, constitutional, as did the New York appellate courts and the New York State Supreme Court, The U.S. Supreme Court struck the prayer down, citing the Es-

tablishment Clause.

In 1963, Abington Township vs. Schempp dealt with a Pennsylvania law requiring the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, plus the reading of 10 verses from the Bible, in Pennsylvania public schools. In this case, it was simpler to extend the Establishment Clause, because the Pennsylvania law mandated the relevant ritual, as opposed to the non-compulsory New York prescription. But the Supreme Court's pointremained thus: civil government ought not to be trafficking in rituals of religion, because to do so would amount to blessing a particularreligious prescription ahead of others — say, the Hebrew Scriptures versus the King James Old Testament.

Now, we cannot and ought not to exclude the religious imperative from the civil order; for sound reasons of ethics and history. But we can make it simple enough, saying in effect: Let the individual do as he will with ritual, so long as he does not interfere with the next one's rights. The Alabama law succeeded, so far as public\_ schools were concerned, in saying precisely that; until one naughty and superfluous phrase inflated the law enough that someone could throw a dart into it, with the Supreme Court left to retrieve the punctured balloon, and pronounce the flaw in its airworthiness.
—JEFFREY A: KALLMAN

# Letters of Agee, Father Flye, reveal rare friendship

from "We Have Been Friends Together" by Raissa Maritain to the ties between Thoreau and Emerson — the name of James Flye has an honored place. He has been known as Father Flye, grade. For teachers, blessings to students are easy. Endorse life given over to the uselessness of making money or making. as in the title of the minor classic, "Letters of James Agee to

On April 12 at the age of 100, the Episcopal priest and teacher died in Sewanee, Tenn. A man who served God and children for eight of his 10 decades had a joyful life of private rewards reserved only for the truest believers. The public reward was in being honored as the mentor-friend of James Agee, the journalist, novelist, poet and user of pure English who died in a New York taxicab 30 years ago next month:

The letters between the priest and writer were published in 1962, with a second edition in 1971. The second is the fuller. It carries, as the first did not, some of the letters that Flye wrote to Agee. The years of correspondence run from 1925 to 1955, beginning with a youthfully exuberant note from Agee when he was a 15-year-old student in a New Hampshire boarding school and ending with a letter Agee wrote the last week of his

By then, he was the author of "A Death in the Family" and "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men," two works of lyrical prose that are still reread for the emotional power in which they were written. Agee produced articles; poems and reviews - for Time, Fortune, The Nation — in a profusiveness that at times appeared to be a wild dispersal of talent. It reflected his personal life: restlessness that carried him undisciplined through several marriages, jobs, illnesses and unrealized dreams. His tie of friendship to Father Flye was a creative activity, like all the others, except it stayed grounded as if the intensity of feeling

Friendships are often more demanding than marriage, because there is no taking the other person for granted as years roll on.

ments are harder. Father Flye, seeing gifts of the imagination in the child, was to lead him on, until one day, in a letter in 1939, he wrote to Agee: "Your writing moves me deeply, and you realize I say this quite objectively. So far as I can see, my feelings about a person — liking, or great love, or great dislike do not enter; or at least exceedingly little, into my judgment of the literary worth of something written by that person. Be sides what seems to me great beauty and clarity of language, I feel in your work a depth, a penetration far below the superficial, a sincerity, a keenness of sympathy, which move me very much: I am deeply interested in anything you ever write

Agee rejoiced in this. The vitality he put into his letters was an extension of his insatiable love of writing. Few letters to Father Flye are without mention of it. From Harvard at 21, he confided that "from now on (I'm) committed to writing him with a horrible definiteness ..... I'm thinking about it every minute: I'd do anything on earth to become a really great writer I've got to strengthen those segments of my talent which

waves. Heights would be reached, as well as depths. Once Agee ending a letter by calling it "lousy, a mouthful of sweet potato. I realized I've said virtually nothing about myself. Maybe that is a virtue in the Art of Letter-writing, but between friends it. seems a vice. I have nothing good to say about myself.

When seeing his younger friend trapped in feelings of selfworthlessness, Father Flye, in the style of a confessor who understands that sometimes the wayward need to be comforted more than rebuked; responded: "When I think of the difference" and opposition between those who have a sense of reverence, wonder and worship and those who do not; the cruel and the compassionate; those who yearn toward good and love and those to whom evil and ill-will are all too congenial; there is no doubt on which side you are

Agee usually ended his letters with "my love to you always." He called Father Plye "my oldest and dearest friend." The pleasure of the correspondence was in the relaxed sharing of ideas. about writing books, God's mercy and providence. Each knew that sustained friendships are rare. They are often more demanding than marriage, because there is no taking the other. person for granted as years roll on. In a friendship the other must always be taken — and cherished — whole.

That may not seem much to ask, but not many achieve it. And fewer still fill it with as much grace as did this priest and writer, co-endorsers of each other.

---COLMAN McCARTHY

01985, Washington Post Writers Group

# Weekend Wire

# Burton's best yet

on the cover of the Magazine of the Midlands, in big, bright, beautiful color. Charlie Burton:

What has happened? Have they lost their minds at the World-Herald? Putting that man on the cover! Why, where's the obligatory native prairie grassland spread? Or the famous windmills of Nebraska feature? Is nothing sacred anymore?

Ahh, but that paisley guitar. What a treasure. But the Magazine of the Midlands! Surely Burton is pulling out all the stops now. A truly desperate man indeed.

Maybe it was inevitable. Local rock star makes his third album, critics warm up to it, and then it's straight to the big time. Midlands cover.

But the fact is Burton deserves the exposure. And with any luck, his new album, "I Heard That," will get him started on to bigger and better things.

"I Heard That" is a radical departure in overall sound quality for Burton, compared to his previous two records. This record, produced by former Morrells member Lou Whitney, is Burton's first truly professional studio album

The result is a collection of Burton's finest recorded material to date. Gone is the gritty live wall of sound that burst from his first LP "Is that Charlie Burton or What?" and the second record "Don't Fight the Band that Needs You!!!!

Replacing the live feel of those two albums is Whitneys' multitrack renderings from his studio in Springfield, Mo. Whitney's touch may have taken away some of the live bite that old-time fans have become accustomed to, but for the first time Charlie's

I could hardly believe my eyes, but there it was. Right there vocals are clear. Guitarist Phil Shoemaker's work shines here, and bassist Tom Rierdon provides a crisp sound in his album. Kill. The latter is a fine example of the type of wit that Burton debut with Burton.

The old Burton monicker, the Cutouts, is replaced by Charlie Burton and the Hiccups.

Burton's writing style hasn't changed much, though, and his witty life as-it-is lyrics are back again. The 12 songs include some old material that is well worn on the club circuit; like "All Time Low" and the saga of the frozen warrior, "Nanook of the

Also present is the rollicking "Dead Giveaway." But these time-honored club songs are accompanied by some great new

Some of the newer material is destined to please long-time Burton fans, Burton takes on a variety of subjects on this album, including family strife, love at first sight, garage sale treasures! and even a rhythm and blues number about running over animals in the road.

Family life seems to permeate much of Burton's material here: as he tells the tragic tale of his parent's heart ailments in "Bum Ticker" and the trials of family life in "Another Vietnam" and "We Don't Have Too Much In Common."

Garage sales are important to Burton: "Garage Sale," which was on his first album, is backed up this time by "One's Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure," a ballad about records bought at such a sale.

Burton's vocals are much improved throughout the record, but it is most evident in the low-key numbers where he drops a few octaves for that "Johnny Cash" sound. Most notable here

are the Burton standard "All Time Low," and his newer "Road brings to his music. 'It's God's will/It's my thrill/ Road kill).

Romance, always a hot subject on previous Burton material such as "Something Fierce" and the famous "Succubus," is also included here.

This time, Burton's affections turn to a damsel he accidentally bumps into at the all-night grocery store in "Is that Wishful Thinking on My Part.

Filling out the new album are a couple of obscure numbers Burton rarely performs live, "Creatures of Habit" and "The O Song," Then, there's "Hungry for Love," a country-tinted bal-

Overall, the new album should be the best yet from Burton. The inevitable delays have pushed its release date back to mid-July. In the meantime, Burton will be busy touring.

Next week the band leaves for California, where they hope to do some shows with The Beatfarmers, whose Omaha debut last month was a success. Also, Burton hopes to cash in one fame and fortune as a contestant on Jeopardy.

Burton is booked in Lincoln July 12, 13, 26, and 27. The band will also appear at the Elkhorn Jam August 3, and in Omaha at the Lifticket Aug. 9-10, and the Howard Street Tavern Aug.

There will be an album release show in Minneapolis July 16-

There, Burton is scheduled to open a show for Lone Justice, a recent MTV attraction and Rolling Stone magazine subject. -KENNY WILLIAMS

# Joslyn Museum featuring music and art throughout July

Joslyn Art-Museum will offer several music plays as a soloist and band member at private and art programs through July

The museum's weekly Music in the Court luncheon/concert series will run every Wednes-

Native Omahan Lynn Scott will perform a mixture of light classical and popular pieces on the piano July 3 beginning at 11:30 a.m. A professional musician for about 16 years, Scott parties and special occasions around the area.

The second luncheon/concert, July 10, will feature Steve Rehbein of Madison, Wis. He will present a jazz and classical repertoire on the vibraphone. Rehbein was a featured performer, composer and arranger with the Eastman jazz ensemble and studio orchestra from 1972-76.

Other performers who will be at the Joslyn

luncheon/concert series will be announced

The Rental and Sales Gallery at Joslyn will feature the acrylic paintings of local artist Judith Welk through July 28. Her paintings of her home, Dundee neighborhood and urban surroundings have been described as "combining an untrained childlike simplicity with a trained

Welk graduated from Kent State University and has lived in Omaha since 1966 when her husband Robert joined the dramatic arts faculty at UNO.

Nebraska folk art is also being exhibited with Welk's work. The show features quilting by Patty Jensen Kennedy, Carol Hebenstreit Uebner and Lorraine Hebenstreit, wood etchings by Clifford Kennedy and hand-made willow furniture by the Willow Collection.

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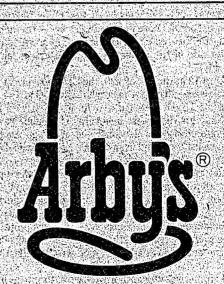
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# Review

# Flaky 'Fletch' fizzles on film; read the book

that is based on a book if you've read it, or worse, if you liked

I'm violating that rule in this review of Fletch, the movie starring Chevy Chase in the title role.

I have read and enjoyed four of Greg Mcdonald's seven Fletch novels, and all three of his related Flynn novels. Mcdonald is a former reporter for the Boston Globe.

But I think the reason I don't like the movie is not because it isn't as good as the book (which it isn't) but because the movie isn't very well done.

Chase plays Irwin Maurice Fletcher, a wise-cracking investigative reporter for a large Los Angeles newspaper. While working undercover on a drug-trafficking story, he is approached by a young executive, Alan Stanwyck (Tim Matheson). Stanwyck tells Fletch he has cancer and wants to die.

Fletch .... he's Chevy Chase and we're not ....

Because insurance companies don't pay off on suicide, Stanwyck asks Fletch to take \$50,000 and murder him. Fletch says,

Eletch checks Stanwyck's background and puts the drug story on hold, which infuriates his editor, Walker (Richard Libertini). Eventually the drug story and the Stanwyck story merge.

In many respects, Fletch is remarkably faithful to the book. Yet the transfer of print to celluloid just doesn't come off.

Much of the problem is Chase. His Fletch seems to be a reprise of his Saturday Night Live role.

His one-liners, cracks and quips seem to be saying (in typical SNL fashion) that he's Chevy Chase and we're not. He also has taken to falling and bumping into things. More than once I expected him to face the camera and say "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night.'

Chase was marketed in the movie as a Fletch of many identities, Indeed, he portrays an insurance investigator, a federal agent; a physician, a waiter, to either gain information or elude and pursuers. In the book, Fletch does most of this by phone.

On film, all characters seem to be the brunt of his joking. He insults Stanwyck's Hispanic maid with what is clearly a racist



Fletch (Chevy Chase) assumes a variety of disguises, such as a surgeon, in his role as reporter/sleuth.

joke. Later, when he interviews Stanwyck's parents at their Utah home, he treats them as sad caricatures of American Gothic.

In the book, however, Fletch rarely attacks ordinary people. His acid tongue is for the criminal, the corrupt, the incompetent, and the haughty,

The movie Fletch rarely exhibits moral fiber. Sometimes Chase is perfect. As Stanwyck tells Fletch how he wants to be. killed. Chase exhibits a wonderful range of emotions. At other times, Fletch/Chase is almost heroic.

Because Chase dominates the film, only Geena Davis (of TV's Sara) has the only good role as Fletch's girlfriend Friday, feeding him research data. Most of the other performances are shallow. Matheson plays his role as a sniveling little kid. He has two scenes and plays them in one dimension. It is hard to know where the flaws lie.

Director Michael Ritchie has had success with movies such as The Candidate and Downhill Racer, But Fletch is clearly

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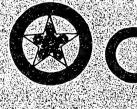
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# Chinese gymnast reaches her goal in Western world

Rong Rong Zhou arrived in San Francisco from her native Shanghai, China with no money and unsure of her destination. She did have high hopes of learning "Western ways" and sharing her knowledge of gymnastics and traditional Chinese

exercise with Americans.

Now, two years later, Zhou's hopes have been realized. She has learned "Western ways" after living with Omahans Richard and Evelyn O'Connor for the past two years, And she has brought her knowledge to hundreds of Omaha-area residents by teaching classes at the YMCA, the Downtown-Omaha Center for Seniors, gymnastics schools throughout the city and at UNO.

She is currently teaching a non-credit course titled, "Revitalization: The Chinese Way" at UNO, incorporating Chinese philosophies, lifestyle, nutrition and Tai Ji Quan.

Tai Ji Quan requires a high degree of concentration, slow, uninterrupted movements and natural, rhythmic-breathing.

Zhou is a professor of biomechanics and a gymnastics coach at East China Normal University in Shanghai.

She said that before China's Cultural Revolution, travel abroad was restricted for the Chinese. After the revolution, travel became more feasible, and Zhou saw an opportunity to learn about other cultures, particularly the United States.

"Seeing the world is so important," she said. "Travel is so important. Every day you see something new and fresh and gain confidence."

Zhou said she came to Omaha because friends told her the

people in the Midwest were friendly, "And I remembered meeting Chancellor-Weber and Tom Gouttierre (UNO International Studies director) when they visited China and I was very impressed," she said.

Because she spoke very little English when she arrived in the United States, she was not qualified to teach at American universities; despite her background. And there were other problems.

"I came here without any money," she said, "and Rich and Evelyn (O'Connor) have helped me in so many ways. They wanted me to learn about American people. They have helped me with my English and they've even taught me how to drive."

She was accepted and studied in UNO's Intensive Language program, and soon began teaching classes through UNO's Campus Recreation department.

Zhou came to the United States to study the system of physical education and compare it to China's; to share her knowledge of sports medicine in light of modern medical theories and practice and study biomechanics (the rotative movements of the body in the air) in relation to modern technology.

When she was 17, Zhou earned the title "Master Sportwoman"

When she was 17, Zhou earned the title "Master Sportwoman of Gymnastics" in China. Now, at 42, Zhou's interest in gymnastics and exercise hasn't dwindled.

Exercise is not just for the young, she said. "When people get older or if they are sick, they stop exercising. It should be just the opposite."



Rosemary Chamberlain

Rong Rong Zhou demonstrates movements incorporated in Tai Ji Quan, traditional Chinese exercise.

## What's Next

# Host famili<u>e</u>s needed

Host families for Japanese students are needed for 10 days in August. A group of 24 students from Shizouka University, UNO's sister campus, will arrive in Omaha July 21. The month-long visit will include a 10-day stay with Omaha families Aug. 7-17. If you're interested in hosting a student, call Merry Ellen Turner, 554-2293.

University leftovers

An auction of surplus University of Nebraska property will be held tomorrow at the Department of Roads, 5001 S. 14th Street, Lincoln starting at 9:30 a.m. Items include trucks, heavy equipment, tractors, cars, pickups, vans and miscellaneous equipment. For a list of items, call Gordon Jensen, 554-2386.

Reminders for grad students

Graduate students wishing to graduate Aug. 17 need to apply for their degree by July 5 in the Registrar's Office. To make sure all needed materials are on file, call the Graduate Office.

554-2341

The application deadline for the Fall 1985 Graduate Regents Tuition Wavier is July 8. Applications are available in the Graduate Office, Eppley Administration Building, Room 204.

Graduate assistant positions are available. Carla Lewton of the Graduate Office has one position open; apply to her in Eppley Administration Building, Room 204, by July 1. Tom Thompson of the history department has history graduate assistant positions available; call 554-2584 to apply before July 19. UNO is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer — minority, female and handicapped applicants are invited to apply.

Video visions

The American Film Institute, Sony and The Movie Channel are sponsoring the Second Annual Visions of U.S. Home Video contest. Submissions of videos are invited in four categories; fiction, non-fiction, experimental and music video. Judges include

director Francis Coppola, television critic Tom Shales, David Byrne of the Talking Heads and actress/producer Shelly Duvall, Prizes include color televisions, VCRs, internships at Showtime/ The Movie Channel, and a chance to have your video shown on cable

Entry deadline is Aug. 15. For rules and an application blank, write to: Visions of U.S., P.O. Box 200, Hollywood, Calif. 90078,

Student bodies

Campus Calendars Company is looking for men and women to compete in the spring/summer. 85 college beauty search. Applicants are encouraged to use imagination in choosing outfits, poses, lighting, hair styles and makeup. Winners will share \$1,500 in prize money and appear in campus calendars all over the country. Deadline for entries is June 30.

For more information, write to: Campus Calendars, 11684 Ventura Blyd., Suite 555, Studio City, Calif. 91604.

# Classifieds

Business ads: minimum charge \$2.50 per insertion. UNO students, faculty and staff: \$1.50 per insertion for non-business advertising. Ad size: 5 lines, 30 spaces per line; 50 cents each additional line. Lost & found ads pertaining to UNO are free: PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED FOR ALL ADS: Deadline: noon Monday for Friday's issue.

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## 1985 Worlds of Fun/ Occans of Fun Discounts

UNO Campus Recreation will be offering discounted Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun Passports.

A single-day Passport to Worlds of Fun will be available for \$9.50. A Passport for visits to both Worlds of Fun and Oceans of Fun will be available for \$14.50

Passports will be on sale at the Campus Recreation office:



HPER 100, 554-2539, or the MBSC Games Desk, 554-2308.

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# Attention Communication Students!

General assignment reporters needed. Writers will be paid a base rate of <u>\$10</u> per published byline story.

For more information contact

Karen or Rosalie at

The Gateway

554-2470

Annex 26